

Summer 2005 Airman brings reader comments

Honorable Airman
The coverage and photography in the July issue was outstanding! Senior Airman Brian Kolfage's story ["Surviving and Thriving"] and photos brought tears to my eyes.

Master Sgt. Lisa Troglio
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Kudos
My thanks to you and the staff for the outstanding publication! Keep up the good work. I enjoy the coverage of the young men and women of our Air Force, particularly the Reserve and National Guard troops. I retired in 1975 and find today's military different, but just as ded-

icated and outstanding in their performance of duty as anytime in our history.
L. J. Fleming
Via e-mail

I just finished reading your July issue and have to admit it's one of the best in recent memory. I really enjoyed your Top 10 things to do while in the Air Force article, "Marlins & Platypuses." Super advice, especially the reminder to eat my peas and spinach. Over all — excellent writing, photography, editing and design — congratulations to the entire staff. This one is as close to perfect as possible!

Lon O. Pollard
Defense Logistics Agency



'How To' attracts attention

I was impressed with the entertainment value of "How to Dodge a Surface-to-Air Missile" in the July issue. Not only is the information essentially accurate, but it's refreshing to see Airman venture a little risk beyond its predictable politically correct and feel good content. We appreciate you getting behind the "force" part of the Air Force mission.

Maj. Barry Luff
Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska

It is too bad Airman has to reduce to a quarterly frequency. The new look is great and the articles are as good or even better! Also, the new "How to ..." department is a good addition. I hope to see more of the same. However, it would seem that the drawing depicts the result of a friendly fire incident. Those exploding vehicles in the final frame look like U.S. (and British) Army M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System artillery launchers. Nonetheless, thanks for an outstanding publication!

Stephen Reeves
Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas

Editor's note:

We appreciate all the feedback we've received regarding our new "How to ..." department. We were definitely looking for a different approach at providing information to our readers, and will use your feedback in gauging its effectiveness. In the planning stages for the Summer 2005 issue, "How to Dodge a Surface-to-Air Missile," we collected imagery for our illustrator to depict images so our readers could recognize them in general terms, not necessarily needing details to pinpoint particular model numbers, etc. For the SAM, we actually downloaded an image from a video game page. By no means did we intend it to be represented as a U.S. Army SAM and we apologize for that. We realize we are not the experts, so we coordinated this page, like we do all our content for the magazine, and were never alerted to any concern surrounding the imagery. Going on that information, we published the page with the confidence that it was a good product. We apologize for the error and will strive to ensure our coordination efforts prevent issues like these in the future. Thank you again for all the feedback, it helps make our publication even better.

In Air Force history 1st Fighter Wing has its place in Air Force annals

The 1st Fighter Wing at Langley Air Force Base, Va., doesn't just arbitrarily call itself the first, it many ways, it was the first.

On Jan. 16, 1918, Brig. Gen. Benjamin D. Foulois, chief of the Air Force, American Expeditionary Force, ordered an Army officer by the name of Maj. Bert M. Atkinson to organize a band of American aviators into the 1st Pursuit and Organization Center. It consisted of the 94th, 95th, 147th, 185th and the Air Force's oldest fighter squadron, the 27th.

America's inaugural multi-squadron fighter unit — the 1st Pursuit Group of the American Expeditionary Forces — was created in May 1918 and deployed to France to fly French aircraft.

Many wars later, the unit became the first to get the F-15 Eagle in December 1975.

First to fight in the Great War, first to fly the F-15 Eagle, the 1st Fighter Wing today is also the first combat outfit to receive the F/A-22 Raptor [see "Air Dominance for Decades," Page 14].

Today's 1st Fighter Wing consists of three flying squadrons: the 27th, 71st and 94th Fighter Squadrons. The wing is still stationed at Langley, among the oldest continuously active air bases in the United States.

Other group achievements include:

- The first U.S. group level unit to enter air combat.
 - The first U.S. unit to destroy an enemy aircraft in World War I.
 - The parent unit of the first recipient of the Medal of Honor for aerial combat.
 - The parent unit of the two highest scoring U.S. aces in World War I.
 - The only U.S. Army fighter group from 1919 to 1932.
 - The first unit equipped with the Lockheed P-38 Lightning.
 - The first fighter unit to deploy en masse over the North Atlantic.
 - The first American unit to destroy a German aircraft in World War II (the group shared the victory with another unit.)
 - The first U.S. jet fighter unit.
 - The first operational unit to fly the F-15 Eagle.
 - The first tactical fighter unit to deploy to Saudi Arabia in support of Desert Shield.
- (The 1st Fighter Wing history office contributed to this article.)



Maj. Gen. Benjamin D. Foulois

